



*City of Arts & Innovation*



# News Release

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## **Riverside to celebrate what it means to be named Most Intelligent City....in the World!**

**RIVERSIDE, Calif.** – On Tues, June 19 Riverside, California community leaders will celebrate Riverside's designation as the Most Intelligent Community of the Year 2012. The celebration will include a video and presentation before the City Council at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 3900 Main Street, Riverside. The celebration will be streamed live online courtesy of Riverside GTV at [www.riversideca.gov/videos/](http://www.riversideca.gov/videos/).

The recognition places Riverside, California center stage in the global market and marks Riverside as the third American city EVER to have received this international honor. The first Intelligent Community of the Year was selected in 1999 – Riverside is the 14<sup>th</sup> City recognized.

As reported in a blog post by Louis Zacharilla, an ICF Founder, this award means “Riverside is the new place on the map of the community renaissance to study and to learn more about; a new place for the rest of the world's communities to visit and to point to as they launch their voyage back, or further, toward excellence.”

The Most Intelligent Community designation is held in perpetuity and Riverside succeeds Eindhoven, Netherlands in the notable group that includes Stockholm Sweden; Singapore, Gangnam District, Seoul, South Korea; Waterloo, Ontario, Canada; Taipei and Mitake, Japan; Glasgow, Scotland; Calgary, Alberta Canada; and the only other U.S. Cities, New York, NY and LaGrange, Georgia,

Mayor Ron Loveridge emphasized, “This award is not a City Hall award, but rather recognition of our community working together. Our work will continue to excel in research at our universities, to support small business through the Technology Park, to assist families with programs like Smart Riverside's Digital Inclusion Program, and to advance technology in our K-12 schools.” Loveridge added, “We have been tested and assessed as world leaders and we are delighted!”

The award process considered five critical success factors: 1) Broadband Connectivity; 2) Knowledge Workforce; 3) Innovation; 4) Digital Inclusion; and 5) Marketing and Advocacy. The selection process takes 12 months. 435 submissions were reviewed for consideration to be named as a Top 21 Smart City. That top 21 group was narrowed to the Top Seven Intelligent Communities in January. The final review phase took place over a period of 6 months wherein ICF submits detailed data provided by each community to an independent research company.

The independent research company conducts an analysis of the information and producers an aggregate score for each community. The process also involves visits from the founders of ICF to validate information provided. The verified data is also reviewed by an international jury of former Intelligent Communities of the Year, government officials, business leaders, academics and consultants involved in the Intelligent Community movement. The independent jury ranks each of the combinations and produces the final selection.

In his report to the selection Jury, ICF's John Jung commented that "Riverside is the first community in the region that feels complete, with a civic center and central city elements."

ICF noted the following Riverside initiatives that demonstrated collaboration to promote technology initiatives and tech-based transformation: High Tech Task Force; Riverside Renaissance; SmartRiverside; Innovation Economy; Seizing our Destiny and Riverside Unified School District's Digital Revolution featuring the first all-electronic high school in California. Other activities highlighted included the Inland Empire Technology Hub, reaching 5,000 digital inclusion families, Winston Chung Global Energy Center, and electronic mannequins in the RCC nursing program.

The Riverside Mayor and City Council will consider Tuesday evening appointing a special task force of innovation leaders to develop a Digital Strategic Plan for the City of Riverside.

#### **About Intelligent Community Forum**

The Intelligent Community Forum (ICF) is a think tank that studies the economic and social development of the 21<sup>st</sup> century community. The roots of the Intelligent Community date back to 1985. ICF took shape in the 1990s and became an independent organization in 2004. ICF notes that economic and social development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is characterized by globalization, which is producing one of the greatest economic transformations in history. Broadband is the infrastructure that has made this possible and this transformation is known as the Broadband Economy.

For more information, visit [www.intelligentcommunity.org](http://www.intelligentcommunity.org)

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